

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus in which a toner image is formed on an image bearing body and the toner image is transferred onto a recording medium, comprising:

an image forming section;

a toner image bearing body;

a reading section that reads the toner image formed on said image bearing body;

a covering section provided between said reading section and said toner image bearing body and movable between a closing position where said covering section covers said reading section and an opening position where said covering section does not cover said reading section;

a drive mechanism that drives said covering section to move between the opening position and the closing position; and

an adjustment section that adjusts said reading section when said covering section is at the closing position.

2. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said covering section includes a reflection member attached thereto;

said reading section includes a light emitting section that emits an amount of light to the reflection member and a light receiving section that receives light reflected from the reflection member; and

said adjustment section adjusts the amount of light in accordance with an output of the light receiving section that detects the reflection member.

3. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising a controller that controls said drive mechanism to drive said covering section, the controller controlling said drive mechanism according to a detection output of the light receiving section that detects passage of an edge of said covering section;

wherein the reflection member has a first reflection coefficient and said image bearing body has a second reflection coefficient.

4. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a fixing section in which the toner image transferred onto the recording medium is fused into a permanent image; and

at least one of a first drive section that drives said image forming section, a second drive section that drives said toner image bearing body, and a third drive section that drives said fixing section;

wherein said drive mechanism is powered by one of said first drive section, said second drive section, and said third drive section to move said covering section between the opening position and the closing position.

5. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said drive mechanism drives said covering section to move straight.

6. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said drive mechanism includes a gear train that transmits a drive force from any one of said first drive section, said second drive section, and said third drive section to said covering section.

7. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said covering section moves in a first direction to the opening position and in a second direction opposite to the first direction to the closing position;

wherein when a rotating member of one of said first drive section, said second drive section, and said third drive section rotates in a third direction, said covering section moves either in the first direction or in the second direction.

8. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said

fixing section includes a heater, and said drive mechanism is powered by said third drive section to move said covering section to the opening position before the heater reaches a predetermined temperature.

9. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said fixing section includes a motor;

wherein when the toner image is fused, the motor rotates in a forward direction; and

wherein when said covering section moves to the opening position, the motor rotates in a reverse direction.

10. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a cleaning member mounted to said covering section;

wherein when said drive mechanism drives said covering section to move between the opening position and the closing position, the cleaning member moves into contact engagement with said reading section to remove foreign matter from said reading section.

11. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a correction section that corrects at least one of a position on said image bearing body at which a toner image is formed and a density of the toner image formed on said image bearing body, the position and the density being corrected in accordance with an output of said reading section.

12. An image forming apparatus in which a toner image is formed on an image bearing body and the toner image is transferred onto a recording medium, the apparatus comprising:

an image forming section;

a toner image bearing body;

a reading section that reads the toner image formed on said toner image bearing body;

a covering section provided between said reading section and

said toner image bearing body and movable between a closing position where said covering section covers said reading section and an opening position where said covering section does not cover said reading section;

a drive mechanism that drives said covering section to move between the opening position and the closing position; and

an adjustment section that adjusts said reading section when said covering section is at the opening position.

13. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said reading section includes a light emitting section that emits an amount of light to the reflection member and a light receiving section that generates an output in accordance with an amount of light received; and

said adjustment section adjusts the amount of light emitted from the light emitting section in accordance with the output of the light receiving section that detects light reflected by said toner image bearing body.

14. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 12, further comprising:

a fixing section in which the toner image transferred onto the recording medium is fused into a permanent image; and

at least one of a first drive section that drives said image forming section, a second drive section that drives said toner image bearing body, and a third drive section that drives said fixing section;

wherein said drive mechanism is driven by one of the first drive section, second drive section, and third drive section to open and close said covering section.

15. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein said drive mechanism drives said covering section to move straight.

16. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein said drive mechanism includes a gear train that transmits a drive force from any one of the first drive section, second drive section, and third drive section to said covering section.

17. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein said covering section moves in a first direction to the opening position and in a second direction opposite to the first direction to the closing position;

wherein when a rotating member of one of the first drive section, the second drive section, and the third drive section rotates in a third direction, said covering section moves either in the first direction or in the second direction.

18. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein said fixing section includes a heater;

said drive mechanism is powered by the third drive section to move said covering section to the opening position before the heater reaches a predetermined temperature.

19. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein said fixing section includes a motor;

wherein when the toner image is fused, the motor rotates in a forward direction; and

wherein when said covering section moves, the motor rotates in a reverse direction.

20. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein a cleaning member mounted to said covering section;

wherein when said drive mechanism drives said covering section to move between the opening position and the closing position, the cleaning member moves into contact engagement with said reading section to remove foreign matter from said reading section.

21. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 12, further comprising a correction section that corrects at least one of a position on said image bearing body at which a toner image is formed and a density of the toner image formed on said image bearing body, the position and the density being corrected in accordance with the output of said reading section.

22. An image forming apparatus in which a toner image is formed on an image bearing body and the toner image is transferred onto a recording medium, the apparatus comprising:

- an image forming section;

- a toner image bearing body;

- a reading section that reads the toner image formed on said image bearing body;

- a covering section provided between said reading section and said toner image bearing body and movable between a closing position where said covering section covers said reading section and an opening position where said covering section does not cover said reading section;

- a drive mechanism that drives said covering section to move between the opening position and the closing position; and

- a cleaning member mounted to said covering section, wherein when said drive mechanism drives said covering section to move between the opening position and the closing position, the cleaning member moves into contact engagement with said reading section to remove foreign matter from said reading section.